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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re Application of: Ralf ZINK et al.

Application No.: 09/559,355

Group Art Unit: 1761

Filing Date: April 27, 2000

Examiner: Deborah K. WARE

For: ENHANCED GROWTH OF LACTIC ACID
BACTERIA IN MILK

Attorney Docket No.: 88265-320

AMENDMENT AND REPLY

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

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TC 1700

In response to the Office Action mailed December 10, 2001 (Paper No. 9), Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks for entry into the above-identified application. Applicants submit concurrently herewith: (a) a marked copy of the specification replacement paragraph (Appendix A); (b) a copy of the pending claims (Appendix B); and (c) a marked copy of the amended claims (Appendix C).

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 2, please replace the first paragraph after the heading "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION" starting with "The present invention solves" with the following replacement paragraph:

A1
"The present invention solves the shortcomings of the art by providing a medium for the growth of *Lactobacillus* strains. The medium comprises a milk-derived base that has been supplemented by an additive system that includes at least four amino acids, at least two ribonucleosides or other ribonucleotide precursors, and beneficially iron. These components are added in amounts sufficient in combination to promote growth of *lactobacilli* in the medium. The specific amount of each of the ribonucleotide precursors, *i.e.*, free bases, ribonucleosides, and deoxyribonucleosides, to be added to the base lie in the range from about 10 to about 500 milligrams per liter (mg/l) base, preferably from about 10 to about 100